Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-10 SAJ-01 SCCT-01 /094 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4431

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS ANKARA 5861

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (ECEVIT, BULENT), TU, US

SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE OF ECEVIT VISIT

REF: ANKARA 5762 (DTG 271350Z JUL 76)

1. THE VISIT OF REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN ECEVIT TO THE UNITED STATES RECEIVED MAJOR COVERAGE IN THE JULY 30 TURKISH PRESS. MOST ACCOUNTS HIGHLIGHT HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD, SECRETARY KISSINGER AND DEFENSE SECRETARY RUMSFELD. THE PAPERS REPORT THAT ECEVIT TOLD THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS THAT THE CYPRUS PROBLEM HAD BEEN SOLVED 'DE FACTO' AND THATEASTERN COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT INTERFERE IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. MILLIYET REPORTED THAT HE TOLD THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY THAT THE MOST REALISTIC WAY TO RESOLVE DISPUTES BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY WOULD BE HIGH-LEVEL TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO IN WHICH BOTH THE CYPRUS AND AEGEAN PROBLEMS COULD BE DISCUSSED.

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2. CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, MOST PAPERS HAVE

FEATURED STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE OF THE EVENT AND AFTERMATH. THERE IS SOME CONFUSION CONCERNING THE AMOUNT OF AND GRANTING OF BAIL, WITH SOME PAPERS REPORTING THE AMOUNT AS \$100 THOUSAND, OTHERS \$150 THOUSAND. MILLIYET REPORTED BAIL HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED AND THAT GREEK-AMERICANS TELEPHONED THE TURKISH UN DELEGATION THREATENING TO BOMB IT IF BAIL WAS NOT GRANTED.

3. EDITORIALS ON THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT HAVE GENERALLY FOLLOWED THE THEME USED BY PRIMIN DEMIREL (REFTEL) THAT THE ATTACK WAS AN ATTACK AGAINST THE TURKISH NATION AND WILL ONLY SERVE TO UNITE TURKEY AND ITS PEOPLE. OTHER PAPERS HAVE TAKEN A MORE ANTI-GREEK LINE. JULY 28 GUNAYDIN EDOTORIALIZED IN A SARCASTIC MANNER THAT IT WAS THE SO-CALLED "CIVILIZED GREEKS," SO ADMIRED BY THE WEST, WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOT ONLY THE ATTEMPT AGAINST ECEVIT, BUT ALSO FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF AMBASSADOR DAVIES, SIX ATTEMPTS AGAINST CARAMANLIS, THE DEATH OF RICHARD WELCH, AND THE PROVISION OF A MERCENARY LEADER IN ANGOLA. JULY 30 LEFTISH CUMHURIYET NOTED THAT "ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN IN THE U.S.." EVEN RELEASING AN ATTEMPTED MURDERER ON BAIL THE NEXT DAY WHO "WILL WANT TO ATTEND ANOTHER MEETING" OF MR. ECEVIT. THE EDITORIAL REPORTED GREEK PRESS SPECULATION THAT THE CIA WAS BEHIND THE ATTEMPT AND RECALLED THAT ECEVIT HAD "UPSET" THE PLANS OF THE CIA WITH THE CYPRUS "PEACE OPERATION". MACOMBER

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